

MACALESTER COLLEGE  
**PSYCHOLOGY 182**  
DRUGS AND SOCIETY  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Psychology 182-01**

**Spring, 2009**

**M-W-F, 2:20-3:30 P.M.**

**Instructor: Eric P. Wiertelak**

**Olin 324, x6111**

**Office Hours: 1:10-2:10 M-W-F or by appointment.**

**Course Description:**

While drugs may be defined as therapeutic agents, society determines whether the use of such substances may be depicted as therapy, rather than experimental, recreational, or abusive in nature. This course will examine the social and legal history of drug use in both the United States and select other countries, while also developing an understanding of the pharmacology of psychoactive substances, of chemical dependence and treatment, and drugs used in treating mental illness. Specific attention will be paid to the correlation between ethnicity and chemical use and the evolution of U.S. drug policy as social control. Classes will consist of a mixture of lecture, film, discussion, etc.

**Prerequisite:**

Psychology 100 (or equivalent).

**Text:**

*Drugs Across the Spectrum 5<sup>th</sup> edition*, by Goldberg (required).

Additional readings will be placed on Moodle's electronic reserve across the semester.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students are expected to have read all assigned material prior to the class meeting for which the reading is assigned. Attendance at all class meetings is highly recommended, as examination material will come not only from the text, but also classroom discussion and lecture material.

Note: As liberal arts students, you are broadly educated and well trained to think critically and bring intelligent reasoning to bear on difficult problems. It is expected that among you are a wide variety of experiences and attitudes toward drugs and U.S. (and other countries') drug policy. This diversity of opinion is welcomed and expected to be of great value in our discussions.

**Evaluation:**

1. Participation and Reaction

This portion of your grade will be based on in class **discussion participation**, small-group reaction papers, and the number and quality of any "minute papers" completed. Minute papers may be occasionally assigned in class and should detail your opinions, thoughts, and remaining questions on the topic(s) discussed during that class session (including any suggestions you may have for its presentation to future classes). Small

group reaction papers will be prepared subsequent to small group reading discussions conducted outside class time.

## 2. Group Project

As you may have gathered from #1 above, the class will also be separated into small groups as the semester progresses. The small groups will work not only on out-of-class discussion sessions and assignments, but also the development of group projects (including a shared “write up”) dealing with a specific, drug-related topic. Details will be provided in class.

## 3. Presentation

The group projects will be presented to the rest of the class during the final two weeks of the course.

## 4. Examinations

Students will be allowed to drop the one lowest grade received across all examinations.

### **Grading Policies:**

**Semester averages** will be calculated on the following basis:

Participation and Reaction	18%
Group Project	15%
Project Presentation	7%
Examinations (3 of 4)	60%

As the grading policy allows for 1 examination grade to be dropped, typically **no** make-up testing will be allowed. However, make-up tests following documented illnesses or emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Should an emergency occur requiring absence from an examination or multiple class sessions, contact the instructor's voice mail ASAP. Missing an examination (beyond the **one** examination that can be dropped) without prior approval by the instructor will result in a grade of NC for the missed examination.

**All Grades** will be assigned based on percentage of the highest individual score achieved in the class for that assignment (on a plus/minus scale) using the following scale:

	A =95.0% or higher	A- =91.6% to 94.9%
B+ =88.2% to 91.5%	B =84.8% to 88.9%	B- =81.4% to 84.7%
C+ =78.0% to 81.3%	C =74.6% to 77.9%	C- =71.2% to 74.5%
D+ =67.8% to 71.1%	D =64.4% to 67.7%	D- =61% to 64.3%
NC =60.9% and below		

It is therefore possible for the entire class to receive the grade of A. On the other hand, it is also possible that very few people would receive an A.

### Tentative Course Outline and Text Readings

<b>Class Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
1/26	<b>Introduction, Drug Use</b>	<b>1, 2</b>
2/2	<b>Drug Use II</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Motivation</b>	<b>3</b>
2/9	Outside Assignment/Reading #1 Due	
	<b>The Law</b>	<b>4</b>
	<i>Exam 1</i>	
2/16	<b>Pharmacology of Drug Use</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>6</b>
2/23	<b>Alcohol, cont.</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Tobacco</b>	<b>7</b>
3/2	Outside Assignment/Reading #2 Due	
	<b>Narcotics</b>	<b>8</b>
	<i>Exam 2</i>	
3/9	<b>Sedatives and Hypnotics</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Stimulants</b>	<b>11</b>
3/16	Spring Break!	
3/23	<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>12</b>
3/30	Outside Assignment/Reading #3 Due	
	<b>Hallucinogens</b>	<b>13</b>
	<i>Exam 3</i>	
4/6	<b>Group meetings 4/6; Drug Psychotherapy 10, 14 and Over-the-Counter Remedies 4/10 No Class</b>	

<b>4/13</b>	<b>Over-the-Counter Remedies, cont.</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Treatment and other issues I</b>	<b>15*, 16*</b>
<b>4/20</b>	Outside Assignment/Reading #4 Due	
	<b>Treatment and other issues II</b>	<b>16*</b>
	<i>Exam 4 (either 4/22 or 4/24, TBA)</i>	
<b>(4/24)</b>	<b>Presentations (Potential, TBA)</b>	
<b>4/27</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	
<b>5/4</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	
	<b>Project write-ups due 5/8</b>	

**\*= As Assigned.**